

firmed acute proctitis. The zymodemes we found are those that produce no disease in parts of the world with endemic amoebiasis. Where is the evidence for invasion? McMillan and his colleagues postulated a toxin derived from *E histolytica* causing symptoms. Our work showed no cytotoxin of any sort in our patients harbouring *E histolytica* in their bowels.

Yours faithfully,
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Correction

Control of hepatitis B and human T lymphotropic virus type III (HTLV-III) in homosexuals in Sheffield

This letter (*Genitourin Med* 1986;62:206) contained data from the department of genitourinary medicine of the General Infirmary, Leeds, by kind permission of Dr M Waugh. An acknowledgement of this was omitted in error.

Book review

Clinical aspects of AIDS and AIDS-related complex. Staquet M, Hemmer R, Baert A, eds, 1986. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp 209 including index. Price £25 (hardback).

This is a well produced book based on a symposium held in Belgium in October 1985. The papers are of uniformly high standard and the editors have ensured uniformity of style, though they understandably had to allow the introductions to each paper to be somewhat repetitive.

The first section deals with clinical presentations, clinical epidemiology, and natural history. Most accounts are descriptive and confirm previously held suspicions concerning the extent and nature of the problems. As one paper stated, almost on behalf of the others, "the clinical features observed are similar to those reported from elsewhere."

The second section deals with the infections seen in the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), and comprises a review, fungal infections, aspects of mycobacterial infections seen in the United Kingdom, preliminary results of treatment for central nervous system toxoplasmosis, and treating patients with AIDS and cryptosporidiosis with interferon and interleukin-2.

The third section deals with clinical immunology, laboratory tests, and

"diagnostics", and includes a useful paper on the diagnostic and prognostic value of lymph node biopsy.

The fourth section deals with treatment, and comprises reports on the use of interferon, interleukin-2, suramin (two papers), and DHPG (RS2192). Three of the five paper titles contain the qualification "preliminary", which adds to their interest and simultaneously suggests that by the time you read this review (or the book) more relevant information will be available. Interestingly there is some debate about the side effects of suramin, which "are similar to those already published in the treatment of onchocerciasis" (p 192), but on page 186 "these side effects, in our experience and that of others, seldom occur in the treatment of onchocerciasis". Such contradictions almost certainly reflect the problems of comparing relatively small trials derived from different population groups in differing stages of infection with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV): if the side effects are different this suggests that it would be even more difficult to draw generally relevant conclusions about treatment results from either study: more work is required.

If you require a review of all aspects of AIDS there are more integrated accounts available, and if you want up to date information and trial results there are the journals. As this book fulfills neither role and costs £25, I cannot judge it to be a good buy: it would have been an ideal journal supplement.

P D Welsby

Notices

Organisers of meetings who wish to insert notices should send details to the editor (address on the inside front cover) at least eight months before the date of the meeting or six months before the closing date for applications.

Sixth Latin American congress of sexually transmitted diseases

The sixth Latin American congress of sexually transmitted diseases will be held on 16 to 18 September 1987 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. It will be preceded by a theoretical and practical course on "The laboratory in the diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases", which will be held on 14 and 15 September.

For further information please contact Dr J Felipe Aroca Campodonico, President of UECETS, Casilla 4733, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

5th Forum of international andrology (note new date)

The 5th forum of international andrology will be held in Paris on 6-8 July 1987.

Subjects will include male impotence, puberty and andropause, tumours of the testis, penile curvatures, urethritis, artificial insemination, and anti-androgens.

For further information please contact: Professor G Arvis, Department of Andrology-Urology, Hopital Saint-Antoine, 184 rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine, F-75012 Paris, France (Tel: (1) 43 43 73 40, Telex: ARVIS 250 303 PUBLIC PARIS).